

CLAIMS:

1. A computer readable storage medium containing a file suitable for processing by a web browser executing on a computer having a display, said file comprising:
 - a. a first set of data causing the browser to render on the display a fixed representation of a document by implementing a document object model that has at least one method to manipulate HTML;
 - b. a second set of data which causes the web browser to make available to the user at least one annotation tool donating to the web browser an annotation functionality, said annotation tool permitting a user to annotate the fixed representation of the document by invocation of one or more methods of the document object model that manipulate HTML.
2. A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 1, wherein use of the tool for annotating the fixed representation of the document invokes at least one method of the object model for generating HTML data.
3. A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 2, wherein said second set of data causes the web browser to make available to the user a plurality of annotation tools, said annotation tools being independently selectable by the user for annotating the fixed representation of the document.
4. A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 3, wherein the plurality of annotation tools include a pen tool, a highlight tool and a notes tool.
5. A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 1, wherein use of the annotation tool invokes one or more methods of the object model that manipulate HTML to generate HTML annotation data constituting a layer to the fixed representation of the document.

- 5 6. A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 5, wherein the HTML annotation data includes an annotation image element and coordinates information specifying the position of the annotation image element in the fixed representation of the document.
- 10 7. A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 6, wherein the HTML annotation data includes identity data identifying an author of the annotation data.
- 10 8. A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 7, wherein the HTML annotation data includes a data stamp.
- 15 9. A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 8, wherein the HTML annotation data includes a time stamp.
- 10.A computer readable storage element as defined in claim 1, wherein the document includes multiple pages.
- 20 11.A computer readable storage element as defined in claim 1, wherein the fixed representation of the document is a representation of the document in printed form.
- 25 12.A computer readable storage element as defined in claim 1, wherein the first set of data includes data in a format selected in the group consisting of GIF, JPEG, TIFF representing the document in printed form.
- 13.A method for annotating a document, comprising:
- 30 a. processing a file by a web browser executing on a computer having a display, the web browser implementing an object model having at least one method for manipulating HTML, the file including:

- i. a first set of data causing the browser to render on the display a fixed representation of a document ;
 - ii. a second set of data donating to the web browser an annotation functionality permitting a user to annotate the fixed representation of the document by manipulating HTML through at least one method of the object model.
- b. using the annotation functionality to generate HTML annotation data through the method of the object model, the HTML annotation data constituting a layer to the fixed representation of the document;
- c. appending the HTML annotation data to the file.

14.A method as defined in claim 13, including establishing a communication with a remote server and forwarding to the remote server the file to which is appended the HTML annotation data.

15.A signal transmission medium containing a data signal representing a file suitable for processing by a web browser executing on a computer having a display, said file comprising:

- a. a first set of data causing the browser to render on the display a fixed representation of a document by implementing a document object model that has at least one method to manipulate HTML;
- b. a second set of data which causes the web browser to make available to the user at least one annotation tool donating to the web browser an annotation functionality, said annotation tool permitting a user to annotate the fixed representation of the document by invocation of one or more methods of the document object model that manipulate HTML.